



March 5, 2014

186 Center Street
Suite 290
Clinton, NJ 08809
(908) 735-9315
(908) 735-2132 FAX

Mr. Jay Nickerson
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Site Remediation Program
401-05F, P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

Re: Carp Angling in the Lower Passaic River Study Area

Dear Mr. Nickerson:

The Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Cooperating Parties Group (CPG) is in receipt of your letter dated February 13, 2014, which conveys information in follow-up to the February 6, 2013 EPA-CPG RI/FS meeting on development of the remedial investigation and risk assessment reports for the LPRSA. Thank you for providing the information. However, upon receipt and review of the information, the CPG does not believe that there is anything provided by NJDEP that has not already been considered and addressed by the CPG.

Your February 13 letter provides a summary of the observations made by Mr. Anthony Marrone of the Clifton Parks and Recreational Department of anglers catching and keeping carp from the LPRSA, which was recounted by Anne Hayton of NJDEP at the February 6, 2014 meeting. At that meeting, the CPG's consultant, Betsy Ruffle of AECOM, noted that the CPG has also recorded anglers catching and keeping common carp during the CPG's 2011-2012 Creel/Angler Survey (CAS) of the LPRSA, in addition to other species, including white perch, channel catfish, American eel, and smallmouth bass.

The CPG's CAS was a comprehensive year-long survey consisting of on-site interviews and angler observations throughout the 17.4 mile Study Area. As noted at the February 6 meeting, based on the findings of the CPG's CAS, common carp has already been included in the diet of the Reasonably Maximally Exposed (RME) angler. Therefore, the CPG has already addressed NJDEP's concern, even though carp was not one of the four target species (white perch, channel catfish, largemouth bass, and American eel) identified in the CPG's approved 2009 *Fish and Decapod Crustacean Tissue Collection for Chemical Analysis and Fish Community Survey QAPP*.

In summary, the information on carp angling provided in your February 13 letter is consistent with findings of the CPG's studies. Further, based on these site-specific data, the potential human health risks associated with a fish diet that includes carp are already included in the evaluation of the RME angler scenario of the CPG's baseline human health risk assessment (BHHRA) that is in progress. As was also discussed at the February 6 meeting, a fish diet that does not include carp is also included to provide risk managers and stakeholders with a more complete understanding of the potential health risks associated with carp consumption.

Mr. Jay Nickerson
LPRSA
March 5, 2014
Page 2 of 2

By including carp in its RME Angler exposure scenario, the CPG has followed the EPA-approved Risk Assessment Problem Formulation Document (PFD), the draft Risk Analysis and Risk Characterization Plan (RARC), the EPA-CPG dispute resolution directives and the best professional judgment of its risk assessors. As such, the CPG's risk assessment is consistent with EPA direction and with appropriate statutes, regulations and guidance related to completing CERCLA RI/FS risk assessments. I expect this will resolve any concerns of the Department but please let me know if you have any questions.

Very Truly Yours,
de maximis, inc.



Robert Law, PhD
CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Ms. Stephanie Vaughn, USEPA
Ms. Jennifer LaPoma, USEPA
William H. Hyatt, Jr., Esquire, CPG Coordinating Counsel